

I feel it is particularly unfortunate that the Joint Committee for the Conservation of British Insects has condemned their use for the manufacture of jewellery. Although they do not say so, I take this to mean the use of *Morpho* wings in silver mounts—a very old established form of jewellery indeed. I say their condemnation is unfortunate because it is the demand for this jewellery that has forced the suppliers to give up collecting and turn to breeding to satisfy the demand. I have this on the authority of a colleague who has been in Brazil, and there was a paper pointing this out in the *Journal of the Lepidopterist's Society* a few years ago from the pen of the well known and respected entomologist E. P. Wiltshire.

Nobody today imagines that all the chickens and rabbits for sale in the supermarkets are wild caught. It is common knowledge that they are “broilers”, factory farmed, and since the demand for insects is as great, or perhaps greater, why do people still imagine they are wild caught rather than also factory farmed?

What is actually destroying the butterfly fauna of South America, and indeed other parts of the tropics, is not the activities of the trader/collectors, but the immense sprawl of modern suburbs, airports, motorways and developmental improvements generally. It is not perhaps sufficiently realised in this country that works such as the Cabora Bassa and Ituri dams, the E-W and N-S motorways through Amazonia are destroying areas the size of one of the larger English counties and probably causing the extinction of species not yet described, as well as many which are. This destruction cannot on any account be laid at the door of the collector, and I can see no reason whatsoever—indeed I think it should be applauded—why traders should not move in front of the bulldozers and remove as much as possible from their path and so preserve it, at least in our collections, for posterity.

(to be continued)

## Notes and Observations

THE FLAME BROCADE (TRIGONOPHORA FLAMMEA ESP.: EMPYREA HBN.) IN SUSSEX IN 1976. — A specimen of this fine moth came to the m.v. light trap in my garden here on the night of the 14th October during a south westerly gale. — R. R. PICKERING, 123 Manor Way, Aldwick Bay Estate, Bognor Regis, Sussex. [This distinctive and very rare noctuoid appears to have been temporarily resident in Sussex during the latter half of the 19th century. The only previous records to my knowledge of its occurrence in Britain during the present century, are of one taken by S. N. A. Jacobs in a spider's web at Chailey, Sussex in 1921, two taken in Devon (one in 1946, one in 1953), and one in Dorset in 1959. Mr. Pickering showed me his specimen while still on the board: it is in fair condition. — J.M.C.-H.]